

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7347

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, ASEAN, RP, JA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS' VISIT TO JAPAN, APRIL 25 TO 28, 1977

SUMMARY. PRESIDENT MARCOS' VISIT TO JAPAN HAS BEEN SET FOR APRIL 25 TO 28. CERMONIAL OR PROTOCOL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT ARE BEING KEPT TO A MINIMUM AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOJ. PRESIDENT MARCOS MAY SEEK TO PORTRAY HIMSELF AS A SPOKESMAN FOR ASEAN AND WILL LIKELY RAISE TRADE QUESTIONS BECAUSE OF THE LARGE PHILIPPINE DEFICIT IN TRADING WITH JAPAN. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE CHARGE MAKOTO TANIGUCHI TOLD EMBOFFS MARCH 18 THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS' VISIT TO JAPAN HAS BEEN SET FOR APRIL 25 TO 28, AND WILL INCLUDE TWO MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA AND AN AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPEROR. THE EMPEROR WILL HOST A STATE DINNER THE FIRST NIGHT, PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA WILL GIVE ANOTHER DINNER THE SECOND NIGHT, AND THE THIRD NIGHT WOULD BE FOR PRESIDENT MARCOS' RETURN DINNER.

2. THE GOJ HAS WORKED OUT WITH THE GOP SOME MEASURES TO LIGHTEN THE PROTOCOL OR CEREMONIAL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT. BECAUSE OF THE EMPEROR'S AGE, THE GOP HAS
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AGREED THAT HE WOULD NOT ATTEND PRESIDENT MARCOS' DINNER. THE GOP HAS OFFERED TO CONFER ITS HIGHEST AWARD ON FUKUDA BUT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS DECLINED THE HONOR.

3. MARCOS HAS INDICATED A STRONG DESIRE TO PLAY GOLF IN TOKYO. SINCE HIS TWO MEETINGS ARE TO BEGIN AT

10 EACH MORNING, IT WOULD MEAN THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO START OUT AT 5 A.M. IN ORDER TO GET IN 18 HOLES, "UNLESS WE COULD TRANSPORT HIM VIA HELICOPTER TO THE GOLF COURSE." ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS BEEN WORKING OUT THE VISIT THROUGH AMBASSADOR BENEDICTO, BYPASSING BOTH THE DFA AND THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN MANILA.

4. ANOTHER MINOR PROBLEM RELATES TO THE TIME OF ARRIVAL IN TOKYO. FOR PROTOCOL AND OTHER REASONS IT WOULD BE DESIREABLE FOR THE AIRCRAFT TO ARRIVE AT 1245, WHICH WOULD MEAN AN EARLY DEPARTURE FROM MANILA. THE PRESIDENT IS AN EARLY RISER, BUT MRS. MARCOS IS A LATER RISER AND SLOW STARTER. AND THE JAPANESE HAVE BEEN OLD, "IT IS HER AIRPLANE THAT THEY ARE COMING ON."

15. ORIGINALLY PRESIDENT MARCOS WANTED TO GO TO JAPAN AFTER THE ASEAN SUMMIT IN AUGUST, INTIMATING THAT HE WOULD BE SPEAKING TO JAPAN FOR ASEAN. THE GOJ WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF MARCOS BEING SELF-ANNOINTED SPOKESMAN FOR ASEAN, PARTICULARLY IF THERE SHOULD BE NO ASEAN CONSENSUS AND ALSO BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT INDONESIA IS ITS DESIGNATED CONTACT. THE GOJ THEREFORE PROPOSED, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF FUKUDA'S SCHEDULE, THAT THE VISIT TAKE PLACE IN APRIL, TO WHICH THE GOP HAS AGREED.

6. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS RECOMMENDED TO TOKYO
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THAT FUKUDA NOT GET INTO DETAILS OF EITHER ASEAN MATTERS OR BILATERAL ECONOMIC MATTERS. ONE SUBJECT OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO PRESIDENT MARCOS IS THE USE OF JAPANESE-MADE CARTONS FOR THE SHIPMENT OF BANANAS. THE JAPANESE VALUATION OF A BANANA SHIPMENT INCLUDES NOT ONLY THE BANANAS BUT ALSO THE CONTAINER, AND JAPANESE IMPORTERS PREFER TO USE THEIR OWN BONDED CARTONS IN ORDER TO AVOID PAYING THE ADDITIONAL DUTY. THE JAPANESE ALSO CLAIM THAT PHILIPPINE BOXES ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH. THE GOP IS NATURALLY INTERESTED IN HAVING THE JAPANESE USE PHILIPPINE-MADE CARTONS. THIS IS THE SORT OF DETAIL TANIGUCHI CITED WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER OUGHT TO AVOID.
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